GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department - Diversion of 74.486 ha of forest area (i.e.17.722 ha in Nellore Division and 56.764 ha in Proddatur WL Management Division) for construction of 765 KV Double Circuit Power Transmission Line from Kadapa – Chilakaluripeta by PSTSL (100% subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.), in favour of Manger (CAO), Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Badvel – Permission accorded – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONEMNT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 29 **Dated: 08-06-2021.**

Read the following:-

1)From the PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Guntur, Lr.Rc.No.6969/2016/FCA-3, Dated.14.03.2018.
2)State Govt.Lr.No.1388/Section.II/2018, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., Dated: 23.03.2018.
3)From the GoI, MoEF& C.C, RO, Chennai, Lr.F.No.4-APC056/2018-CHN/0503, Dated.05.04.2018.
4)From the GoI, MoEF& C.C, RO, Chennai, Lr.F.No.4-APC056/2018-CHN/1580, Dated.04.10.2018.
5)State Govt.Lr.No.1388/Section.II/2018, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., Dated:30.11.2020.
6)From the GoI, MoEF& C.C, IRO, Vijayawada, Lr.F.No.4-APC056/2018-CHN/18, Dated.03.02.2021.

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ORDER:

In the letter first read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 74.486 ha of forest area (i.e.17.722 ha in Nellore Division and 56.764 ha in Proddatur WL Management Division) for construction of 765 KV Double Circuit Power Transmission Line from Kadapa – Chilakaluripeta by PSTSL (100% subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.),in favour of Manager (CAO), Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Badvel, and requested to forward the same to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Chnage, Regional Office, Chennai for consideration of the proposal.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) was sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai for their approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. In the letter 3rd read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai, have accorded in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act,1980, for diversion of 46.742 ha of forest area (except 27.744 ha of forest area falls in Tiger Corridor of Kancherlamoram RF out of 74.486 ha proposed for diversion) for construction of 765 KV Double Circuit Power Transmission Line from Kadapa – Chilakaluripeta by PSTSL (100% subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.), in favour of Manager (CAO), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Badvel, subject to fulflment of certain conditions stipulated therein. Further, in the letter 4th read above, the GoI, MoEF&CC, RO, Chennai, have accorded in principle approval (Stage-I) under Section – 2 of Forest (C) Act, 1980, for diversion of the remaining forest area of 27.744 ha falling in the Tiger Corridor in Kancherlamoram RF, out of 74.486 ha proposed for diversion for construction of 765 KV Double Circuit Power Transmission Line from Kadapa – Chilakaluripeta by PSTSL (100% subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.), in favour of Manager (CAO), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Badvel, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions stipulated therein. Accordingly, in the letter 5th read above, the State Government furnished compliance report on the conditions stipulated by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai while according in-principle (Stage-I) approval.

4. In the letter 6th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada, have accorded approval (Stage-II) under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 74.486 ha. of forest area (i.e.17.722 ha in Nellore Division and 56.764 ha in Proddatur Wildlife Management Division) for construction of 765 KV Double Circuit Power Transmission Line from Kadapa – Chilakaluripeta by PSTSL (100% subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.) in favour of Manager (CAO), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Badvel, subject to certain conditions as stipulated therein.

5. After careful examination of the proposal, the Government hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, for diversion of 74.486 ha. of forest area (i.e.17.722 ha in Nellore Division and 56.764 ha in Proddatur Wildlife Management Division) for construction of 765 KV Double Circuit Power Transmission Line from Kadapa – Chilakaluripeta by PSTSL (100% subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.) in favour of Manager (CAO), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Badvel, subject to the following conditions:-

i. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged;

ii. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.

iii. The State Forest Department shall carryout Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over **154.93 ha** of degraded forest area in Compt.No. 200, 201, 245, 254, 230 & 237 in Porumamilla Range, Compt.No.27 of Muddanur Range and Compt.No.73 of Proddatur Range of WLM Proddatur Division from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency;

iv. The degraded forest land identified for CA and approved CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;

v. Additional amount of Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency;

vi. The State Government and the User Agency shall comply with the mitigation measures and all other conditions as recommended by the NBWL at the project cost;

vii. The User Agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on the upper conductor of the transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits;

viii. The State Forest Department shall carryout plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) and maintenance under the transmission line from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency;

ix. The maximum width of right of way for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall not be more than 67 mtrs;

x. During construction of transmission line, pollarding / pruning of trees located outside the above width of the strip, whose branches / parts infringe with conductor stringing, shall be carried out to the extent necessary, as may be decided by the local forest officer;

xi. The Forest Department shall ensure to plant adequate number of Red Sanders seedlings to compensate the felling of the species involved in this project;

xii. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred / sub let to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

xiii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;

xiv. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land. Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the user agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;

xv. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.

xvi. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.

xvii. All efforts shall be taken to minimize the felling of trees from the proposed forest area and the State Forest Department shall carry out translocation of the trees wherever feasible at the cost of User Agency;

xviii. In case the portion of the transmission line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;

xix. The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012-FC dated 05/05/2014 & 19/11/2014.

xx. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.

xxi. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **74.486 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;

xxii. The State Government shall comply with the instructions issued by the REC and conveyed vide this office letters dated 02.02.2018 & 09.03.2018 with regard to implementation of compensatory afforestation and uploading of proposal details including general approval in the Ministry's web portal;

xxiii. The Progress of the Compensatory Afforestation as mentioned by the DFO, Nellore Division in Sl. No 6 (v) (a) & (b) of part II i.e 1036.99 ha of forest land and 7260.25 ha of non forest land and DFO, Proddatur (WLM) Division in Sl.No.12 (v) (a)&(b) of part II i.e 259.62 ha of forest land and 4099.739 ha of non forest land shall be monitored by the Circle Head and a copy of such monitoring report shall be forwarded to the Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada;

xxiv. The user agency and the State Govt. shall ensure compliance of all the court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

xxv. Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer(Central) of Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency.

xxvi. The user agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above conditions to the Government and to the Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada regularly;

xxvii. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the user agency is liable for penal action as per the Rules / Guidelines issued under FCA, 1980.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

VIJAY KUMAR GSRKR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.

Copy to:
The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Regional Office, 1st and 2nd Floors,
Handloom Export promotion Council Building
34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034.

The Inspector General of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada,
Camp Office:National Tiger Conservation Authority,
Regional Office (South Zone)
Bengaluru-560076.

The Manager (CAO), Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Flat No.107, Balaji Harivillu Apartments, Nellore Road, Badvel – 516227.

SC/SF

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER